



## **Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office**

### **Operations Directorate — Fact Sheet**

#### **Training and Education Measures Necessary to Support the Code of Conduct**

**ISSUE:** DoD Directive 1300.7 & DoD Instruction 1300.21

**BACKGROUND:** The Code of Conduct provides standards of behavior for the American military during combat or captivity. DoDD 1300.7 establishes policies and procedures, and provides guidance for developing and executing training for service personnel in the Code of Conduct. DoDI 1300.21 implements policy, assigns responsibilities, and prescribes procedures under DoDD 1300.7 to develop and execute Code of Conduct training for service members.

**DISCUSSION:** Updates of DoDD 1300.7 included major policy changes.

- The new DoDD 1300.7 requires the combatant commanders to, “designate the level of training that personnel operating in the area of operation of a Combatant Command shall have before deploying into theater and identify those requirements to the respective Services.” Furthermore, it requires the Services to, “Conduct CoC training validated and accredited by the Services,” and to, “Train Service personnel to the levels required by the [combatant commands] before deployment of personnel to the theater.” This puts the onus of identifying the requirements squarely with the warfighter, and fulfilling the requirement with the force provider.
- It also requires DoD to provide DoD civilians and contractors with the foundation necessary to cope with possible capture and to return home with honor. This policy addition comes as a result of increasing civilian and contractor involvement in high-risk areas while accompanying the Armed Forces overseas. Their participation in these deployments and presence in dangerous locations increases the possibility of their capture, isolation, and exploitation by a hostile government, an aspect not covered or required in their current deployment training. Expanding this into a more comprehensive training program will help to prepare civilians more effectively to cope with capture and possible exploitation by a hostile government. DPMO has drafted a separate directive to cover policy responsibilities for preparing DoD civilians and contractors throughout DoD. The directive is in initial coordination at this time with feedback due to our office by May 28.
- DoDI 1300.21, for the first time in DoD policy documents, emphasizes the importance of CoC continuation training for personnel at risk of capture and exploitation. The challenge that has not been addressed in previous policy statements is the fact that personnel who received CoC training (at whatever level) 10-15 years ago should not be considered trained today. The DoDI charges the combatant commanders to, “Determine CoC continuation training requirements for personnel identified to operate in the command's area of operations,” and for the Services to fulfill the warfighters’ requirements. It also directs the CINCUSJFCOM to, “monitor and provide oversight for Service and mission-specific refresher and continuation training.”